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December 21, 2009

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Freedman
Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT – SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION AND REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

This is to advise you that the Department of Public Health, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration has submitted an application for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Justice Assistance Grant and Offender Treatment Program (JAG/OTP), in response to a Request for Applications issued by the State of California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). Board action is needed to accept the grant award and allocate the funds to the existing network of criminal justice projects and treatment agencies.

Background

On November 5, 2009, the CalEMA released the 2009 Request for Applications for the funding under the ARRA - JAG/OTP Treatment Program. CalEMA is responsible for the administration of this one-time federal funding in the amount of \$44,400,000 to counties for the provision of substance abuse treatment for criminal offenders convicted of nonviolent drug offenses. Of this amount, Los Angeles County's provisional allocation was set at \$10,444,559. This amount may increase by up to 30 percent if other counties opt out of the program. The grant will cover substance abuse treatment costs incurred during the period of October 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011.

The purpose of the JAG funds is to: enhance treatment services; increase the proportion of offenders who enter, remain in, and complete treatment; reduce delays in the availability of appropriate services; and employ a drug court model, including dedicated court calendars, with regularly scheduled reviews of treatment progress, and strong collaboration between the courts, probation, and treatment.

With the State's elimination of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (also known as Proposition 36/OTP) funding for Fiscal Year 2009-10, Los Angeles County was forced to reduce funding to treatment services by 80 percent. The reduction severely limited residents' access to treatment services under this State-mandated program. The addition of JAG/OTP funding will allow ADPA to increase funding to the existing network of criminal justice projects and treatment agencies, reduce waiting time, and enhance services for nonviolent drug offenders ordered by the Superior Courts and State Parole to enter treatment, rather than jail or prison.

Required Board Actions

ADPA expects to receive the notice of grant award by the end of January 2010. Although this application is not specific once the grant notice is received, federal offices normally require acceptance of funds within 30 days. In a Board letter that will follow shortly, ADPA will request that the Board delegate authority to the Director of Public Health or his designee to accept and sign for the forthcoming JAG/OTP grant funds and amend contracts to adjust funding to the existing network of criminal justice projects and treatment agencies. Additionally, ADPA will request Board approval for John Viernes, Jr., Director, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, to sign the Certificate of Assurance Compliance form required for the grant.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:ld

c: Jonathan E. Fielding M.D., M.P.H.
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